

---

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



---

Contact:  
Eric Coonradt

Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake Street, Room 103  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Phone: (907) 747-6688

Date: March 10, 2017

Fax: (907) 747-6693

Time: 11:00 a.m.

---

#### **SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #1**

Sitka.... An aerial survey was conducted today covering Sitka Sound north of Povorotni Point, including Salisbury Sound. No herring or herring spawn was observed. The highest concentration of herring predators was seen between Bieli Rock and Inner Point; where numerous whales were seen working in deeper waters west of Bieli Rock and approximately 400 sea lions in several large groups holding off the rock piles. Additionally, two whales were in deeper waters between Siginaka Islands and Promisla Bay, and two whales near Vitskari Rocks. In Salisbury Sound, two whales were seen in the vicinity of Kakual Narrows and numerous small groups of sea lions were heading north in Neva Strait. South of Sitka, there were two whales in Eastern Channel and one small group of sea lions. The observed distribution of herring predators was normal for this date.

The next Fishery Update can be expected on Monday, March 13, after the next scheduled aerial survey. The vessel contracted to conduct the Sitka Herring Test Fishery found a large biomass of herring in the deep water west of Bieli Rock. Herring from test fishery samples taken on March 5 had an average weight of 102 grams and all female herring observed contained immature roe. Test fishery sets made since March 5 have only found smaller herring. Once test sampling indicates increasing roe maturity, the department will place the fishery on two hour notice and schedule a pre-fishery organizational meeting.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220